

SART to Present "The Belle of Amherst"

The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre will present The Belle of Am-herst Tuesday, March 7 and Wednesday, March 7 and Wednesday, arch 8 at Owen Theatre here at Mars Hill College. The curtain time is 8:00 for this delightful one-woman show which vividly depicts the humaness and asonableness of the life of the poetess nily Dickinson. Actress Susan King ill be playing the part of Miss Dickinas the somewhat shy, humorous, Witty and vivacious young woman that was. Emily Dickinson was one of world's masters of the short lyric oem. The subjects of her poems, xpressed in intimate, domestic figures speech, include love, death and

Denied most of the comforts and satisfactions that sustain humanity, Particularly love and marriage and a secure religious faith, Emily lived inensely, finding in her books, her garden and the friends with whom she corresponded the possibilities of rich experience and fulfillment, though she tarely crossed her "Father's ground to any house or town." By the 1870's, she dressed only in white and saw few of the callers who came to the homestead. She was described then as a "soft frightened breathless childlike voice." The playwright, William Luce, has subtly woven dramatically workable

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anecdotes, poems, and exerpts from Emily's letters in a conversational manner, blending in his own words or seamlessly as possible, and with the cadence and color of Emily's words. The resulting work is a love affair with language, and a celebration of all that is beautiful and poignant in life.

Susan King, a 1976 graduate of Mars Hill College, has appeared in such differing shows as The Sea Gull, The Boy Friend, and The Apollo of Bellac and while with the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Miss King played in two shows which had their world premieres there: Ark of Safety and Mandy Lou. This past year, Miss King completed a ten month session as Artist-in-Residence for the North Carolina Arts Council in Clay County where she directed a series of productions for high school and community groups.

Admission is free to Mars Hill College students, having been subsidized by the Wren College Union, \$2.00 for all other students, and \$3.00 for faculty and general admission.

Following the two performances on the Mars Hill College campus, Miss King, accompanied by Ken Wilson, production manager, and Diana Mc-Williams, stage manager, will begin a month's tour to schools, art councils and civic centers in North Carolina and Georgia.



Susan King, as seen in a rehearsal scene from "The Belle of Amherst" to be performed in Owen Theatre March 7-8 at

Photo by John H. Campbell, Jr.

LOCATIO Belk Au Belk Au Student Earns Credit Without Classroom Study Moore Au Moore Au Belk Au Moore Au awarded academic credit in that subject Lisa Hood, a junior elementary ed-ucation major at Mars Hill College who Belk Au grew up in Thailand, has become the Moore Belk Au ^{lirst} student to fulfill - without benefit ^{of courses} in the subject - one of the ^{collect} Moore Au Belk Au

college's seven competences required ^{for} a degree. In 1972 the Baptist-related school stated its curriculum requirements in erms of competences as well as the traditional list of required courses and

tredit hours. To earn a degree a student must demonstrate competence in an area of specialization - comparable to a major - and six general areas: comhunication skills, aesthetics, synoptics, Personal knowledge, sciences, and ^{cult}ural values.

Adoption of the competence statements introduced a high degree of η_{exibility} introduced a night degree p_{rogram}. Students who satisfactorily comptions and a students who satisfactorily a student complete certain specified courses in a subject Subject are considered competent in that area; but it is also possible for a student who has not taken those specfied courses to prove his or her proficiency by asking to be examined by a group of faculty members and other ersons called an "Assessment Team." the examination reveals a satisfactory evel of competence, the student is

area even though he or she has not actually taken the classroom courses. The theory behind this permitted flexibility is that some students may have become competent in one or more of the required seven areas by virtue of their life experiences, through specialized training or independent study, or some other non-traditional means. Such was the case with Miss Hood.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, she moved to Thailand at the age of 8 when her parents were appointed missionaries there by the Southern Baptist Convention. Her father, Dr. Alton Hood, is a native of Goldsboro and had just finished his medical doctor's degree at the University of Tennessee. He now practices at a Baptist-supported hospital in the village of Bangala, approximately two hours away from the capital of Thailand, Bangkok. Her mother does some missionary work through the local church, although Lisa notes that she has had her hands full teaching Lisa's four brothers and sisters.

As a result of her life in Southeast Asia, Lisa felt that she possessed at least minimum competence in Mars Hill's "Cultural Values" requirement. She, therefore, petitioned to be examined in that area.

The full competence statement is that "A Mars Hill College graduate comprehends the major values of his or her own culture and one foreign culture and can analyze the relationships of values between the cultures as well as appraise the influence of those values on contemporary societal developments in the two cultures."

The assessment team which examined Lisa included her academic advisor, Dr. William J. Sears of the Education Department faculty; Dr. Evelyn Underwood, professor and former chairman of the History Department; and Rev. and Mrs. Deaver Lawton of Ridgec missionaries to mainland China and Thailand.

Lisa admitted to being nervous as the examination began, but members of the assessment team quickly put her at ease. The two-hour session included basic questions on the culture and customs of Thailand, and she was also asked to discuss comparisons between Thai customs and customs in the U.S.

"I felt good about the session," Lisa said when it was over and she had been certified competent. "Thailand has been so much a part of my life that I enjoyed sharing my experiences. Besides," she added, "this was a lot better than taking a course."

Lisa's quest for credit by examination was not a means of avoiding difficulty study. Earlier in the year she had decided to work toward a double major in her pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979 in Mars Hill's new program of training teachers to work with gifted and talented children. To become certified in that field as well as in the general field of elementary education she will have to take an overload of classes.

"I will simply need time in my schedule to work in those extra education courses," she explained, "so I decided to try and pass the competence requirement in cultural values without taking the courses. This way, the time I would have spent taking the culture courses can be devoted to my extra education courses.'

Dr. Underwood, who helped Lisa draft her request for credit by examination and served on the assessment team, said that "Lisa is well acquainted with the culture of Thailand and understands the values which help mold the lives of the people there. It was a pleasure to serve on her evaluation committee and approve a part of her education by non-traditional means."